

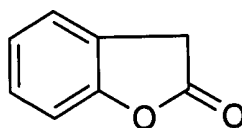
Remarks

Claims 1-15 are pending and subject to a restriction requirement. The Examiner has broken the claims up into nine (9) groups as follows:

- I) claims 1-4, drawn to benzofuran-2-one compounds;
- II) claims 5-8, drawn to a process for making benzofuran-2-one compounds;
- III) claim 9, drawn to an aminohydroxy compound;
- IV) claim 10, drawn to a process for making an aminohydroxy compound;
- V) claim 11, drawn to a process for making a compound;
- VI) claim 12, drawn to a composition of matter;
- VII) claim 13, drawn to a composition (polymeric) of matter;
- VIII) claim 14, drawn to a process for making a compound; and
- IX) claim 15, drawn to the use of such compounds or compositions.

Applicant elect to prosecute the invention of Group I subject to the following traversal. Applicants further refer to example (LXXXIV) on page 60 of the present invention for search purposes.

The compounds of claims 1-4, 9 (Groups I and III) and composition claims 12 and 13 (Groups VI and VII) are colorants. These colorants, whether they are benzofurano-2-one derivatives, aminohydroxy benzofurano-2-ones derivatives or compositions thereof, all possess benzofurano-2-one



as key building block of their chemical structure.

The essence of the invention and its linking element is this benzofurano-2-one key building block. Therefore, the novel colorants of present invention, as claimed in product claims 1-4 and 9, and in the composition claims 12 and 13, are based on a single inventive idea, namely the *benzofurano-2-one* key building block, and fulfill the requirement of unity. Applicants submit that these claims should be considered together.

The process-claims (5-8, 10, 11 and 14, Groups II, IV, V and VIII) and compound claims (1-4, 9, 12 and 13, Groups I, III, VI, and VII) are linked by the single inventive idea, namely the provision of colorants with a benzofurano-2-one key-building block. The process claims should be recombined with the compounds claims prior to issuance.

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Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider her restriction requirement in light of the comments provided above. In the event that minor amendments will further prosecution, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David R. Crichton", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

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